



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, February 24, 2009

Electricity

Update: More than 60,000 Customers Remain Without Power in Maine February 24

An estimated 57,000 Central Maine Power customers and 5,831 Bangor Hydro Electric Company customers remained without power February 24, one day after storms cut electricity to 168,209 customers in Maine and New Hampshire. Central Maine Power, the hardest-hit utility, hoped to reduce its outages to 30,000 or fewer by midnight tonight.

<http://www.bhe.com/about/outages.cfm#>

<http://www.cmpco.com/OurCompany/News/2009/news090224a.html>

TVA's 1,118 MW Browns Ferry Nuke Unit 2 in Alabama Reduced to 86 Percent by February 24

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of February 23 the unit was operating at 96 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

Luminant's 793 MW Martin Lake Coal-fired Unit 1 in Texas Shut February 23

Luminant planned to work on the unit on February 24-25, it said in a filing with state regulators. The company did not say when the unit would resume service, but electricity traders expected it back online within a few days.

Reuters, 09:44 February 24, 2009

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=120501>

Update: Duke Energy's 1,100 MW McGuire Nuke Unit 1 in North Carolina at Full Power by February 24

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of February 23 the unit was operating at 88 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

Update: Exelon's 855 MW Quad Cities Nuke Unit 2 in Illinois Ramped Up to 97 Percent by February 24

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of February 23 the unit was operating at 77 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

OPG's 490 MW Nanticoke Coal-fired Unit 5 in Ontario Shut by February 24

Reuters, 8:12 February 24, 2009

Atco's 378 MW Sheerness Coal-fired Unit 2 in Alberta Shut by February 23

Reuters, 19:02 February 23, 2009

Calpine's 212 MW Greenfield 2 Gas-fired Unit in Ontario Shut by February 23

Reuters, 19:02 February 23, 2009

NRC Conducting Special Inspection into Pipe Failure at NPPD's 801 MW Cooper Nuclear Power Station in Nebraska

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) launched a special inspection yesterday at Nebraska Public Power District's (NPPD) 801 MW Cooper nuclear power plant in Nebraska, the NRC said in a release. Inspectors were expected to investigate the failure of a pipe that supplies lubricating oil to an emergency diesel generator. The associated pipe began leaking oil during testing on January 27. NPPD believes the leak was triggered by a vibration induced failure. A leak occurred in a similar pipe one year ago, and NPPD replaced pipes on both diesel generators.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2009/09-002.iv.html>

NJDEP Finds Faulty Radiation Monitors at AmerGen's 641 MW Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant in New Jersey

Three of Oyster Creek's 19 radiation monitors have been inoperable for more than a year, and all 19 have been occasionally down at the same time, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) said. The officials said they are working to fix the issue, but said the public faces no safety risk.

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2009/02/officials_say_oyster_creek_pow.html

SPP Board Approves Transmission Expansion Plan for U.S. Southwest

The Southwest Power Pool (SPP) Board of Directors approved the 2008 SPP Transmission Expansion Plan, a proposal to improve electric reliability within the group's eight-state region. The plan identified 1,753 miles of potential new transmission lines and 80 new or upgraded transformers. Its proposals were based on a 10-year timeframe.

http://www.spp.org/publications/2008_SPP_Transmission_Expansion_Plan_Approved.pdf

Petroleum

Power Failure Shuts Tesoro's 72,000 b/d Kenai, Alaska Refinery February 23

A transmission line insulator failure forced shut two substations and cut power to Tesoro's 72,000 b/d Kenai, Alaska refinery February 23. Homer Electric Association (HEA) crews re-energized the system in about an hour, but had yet to restore power to the refinery, as of latest reports. The company was working to replace the affected insulator, and hoped to restore power to the refinery by early yesterday evening.

http://www.peninsulaclarion.com/stories/022409/new_285211991.shtml

Conveyor Belt Fire at BP's 265,000 b/d Carson, California Refinery February 23

The fire occurred in an underground tunnel through which a conveyor belt delivers coke to a storage facility. . According to a statement from BP, the "refinery continues to operate and produce products for customers." While a BP spokesman declined to comment on either the coker or production rates at the refinery, there is an unconfirmed report that the refinery is operating at reduced rates.

Bloomberg News, 10:39 February 24, 2009

Reuters, 11:03 February 24, 2009

DJN, 10:32 February 24, 2009

Tesoro Slows Hydrocracker at 166,000 b/d Martinez, California Refinery by February 23

Tesoro slowed production at a 35,000 b/d hydrocracker to effect repairs, and said it might have to shut the unit if workers are unable to complete the work while it is at the reduced rate. "Either option, a slowdown or a shutdown, would have a minimal impact" on gasoline supplies, a spokesman said. The shutdown would be brief, he said.

Reuters, 14:51 February 23, 2009

http://www.insidebayarea.com/business/ci_11768619

Update: Oil Tanker Freed Offshore Galveston, Texas February 24

Workers freed the Yasa Golden Dardanelles early this morning, the U.S. Coast Guard said, after transferring more than 80,000 barrels of fuel oil to another ship. The ship grounded 22 miles off the coast of Galveston, Texas on February 20, carrying more than 600,000 barrels of fuel oil. Divers are preparing to inspect the tanker's hull.

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/6278013.html>

Update: Colonial Pipeline Indefinitely Delays Plans for 460-mile, Louisiana-to-Georgia Petroleum Pipeline

Citing market conditions, Colonial Pipeline indefinitely delayed plans to build a 460-mile, Louisiana-to-Georgia petroleum pipeline, the company announced yesterday. The line would have run largely alongside two existing Colonial lines. The company had expected to break ground on the line—dubbed “Project ExCEL—in 2011. It is still seeking regulatory approval for the plans.

Reuters, 14:29 February 23, 2009

http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/cobb/stories/2009/02/23/colonial_pipeline_expand.html

Companies Store at Least 80 Million Barrels of Crude Offshore—Frontline Ltd

Oil companies are storing offshore at least 80 million barrels of oil, tanker company Frontline Ltd said yesterday, despite OPEC production cuts meant to counter plummeting global demand. The companies, which include some from OPEC nations, have leased up to 45 Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs) to store oil offshore, shipping sources said.

Reuters, 15:31 February 23, 2009

Update: Total Sees Delays to Canadian Oil Sands Production on Technical, Environmental Issues

Total expects technical issues and stricter environmental policies to push back production milestones at its Canadian oil sands ventures, the company’s CEO said yesterday. Total had previously expected to produce 250,000 b/d by 2015 or 2016 from its Surmont and Joslyn oil sands project. Now, it does not expect to reach that figure until the end of that decade.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=73281

Pirates Attack Russian Oil Tanker Offshore Nigeria February 23

Pirates fired shots at the Russian “Khatanga” oil tanker offshore Nigeria, but the tanker managed to escape with no injuries to the crew, a news source said. The attack occurred about 20 nautical miles off the coast of Nigeria.

DJN, 09:41 February 24, 2009

Natural Gas

Energy Transfer Partners Completes 500 MMcf/d, 42-and-36-inch, 260-mile Phoenix Natural Gas Lateral in Arizona

Energy Transfer Partners’ 500 MMcf/d, 42-inch and 36-inch, 260-mile Phoenix natural gas lateral is complete and ready for service, the company announced today. The line runs from Transwestern’s mainline near Ash Fork, Arizona, to a location near Coolidge, Arizona. It is expandable to 1 Bcf/d.

<http://www.energytransfer.com/PressReleases.asp?idPressRelease=273>

Update: FERC Says Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Projects Advance to New Stage in Development Process

Two Alaskan natural gas pipeline projects—BP and ConocoPhillips jointly-planned “Denali” line, and TransCanada’s government-backed proposal—have moved into “the detailed planning and project development stage,” FERC said in a report to Congress. The lines, if developed, would deliver natural gas to the lower 48 states.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=15285

Other News

Australian-American Energy Co. Plans 50,000 b/d Coal-to-Liquids Plant in Montana

Australian-American Energy Co. plans to build a coal-to-liquids plant on the Crow Indian Reservation, a news source said. The facility would convert coal into 50,000 b/d of diesel and other liquid fuels.

http://nativetimes.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1105&Itemid=32

Update: GTL Resources Resumes Partial Operations at 100 MMGal/Yr. Ethanol Plant in Illinois

Illinois River Energy, a GTL Resources subsidiary, resumed operations at a rate of 50 MMGal/Yr., or 50 percent capacity, GTL said in a release. The company announced the facility's shutdown on February 10, citing structural damage in the corn receiving area. Workers installed interim structural supports, and a team of engineers approved the plant for restart. Those same engineers will observe progress over the next few weeks, GTL said. Upon their approval, the company expects to resume full capacity.

<http://www.gtlresources.com/documents/GTLPressReleaseFeb242009.pdf>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices February 24, 2009			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	37.23	34.60	98.83
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.23	4.60	8.90

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Update: Xcel Energy Files With Public Service Commission to Convert to Biomass 30 MW Coal-fired Unit at Bay Front Power Plant in Wisconsin—Says Unit Could Begin Service by Late 2012

<http://www.xcelenergy.com/Company/Newsroom/Pages/NewsRelease2009-02-23-XcelEnergyFilesApplicationForLargestBiomassPlantinMidwest.aspx>

Truck Spills 2,000 Gallons of Gasoline, Shuts Hawaii's H-1 Freeway for 11 Hours February 21

<http://www.khon2.com/news/local/40038892.html>

Tanker Truck Overturms, Spilling Waste Oil and Forcing Shut California's Southbound I-5 for Five Hours February 24

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_11772946

Alon Installs Naphtha Hydrotreater, Boosts Diesel-and-Gasoline Production by 5,000 b/d at 55,000 b/d Paramount, California Refinery

Bloomberg News, 10:19 February 24, 2009

Update: BP's 1,300 b/d Flow Line and 922 b/d of Oil Production Remain Down in Alaska after February 18 Gas Release

Bloomberg News, 18:50 February 23, 2009

High Pressure Shuts #1 Compressor at Lehman Compressor Station in Texas February 23

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=120511>

High Level Alarm Briefly Shuts Unit at Tilden Gas Plant in Texas February 23

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=120475>

Update: Bluefire Ethanol Receives Air Permit for Planned 3.7 MMGal/Yr. Cellulosic Ethanol Plant in California

http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20090224005903&newsLang=en

U.S. Ethanol Production to Jump from 9 Billion Gallons/Year in 2008 to More than 10 Billion Gallons/Year in 2009—Renewable Fuels Association

<http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/7686912.xml?p=Oil/News&sub=Oil>

Update: BP Restarts Two Wells at 700,000 b/d ACG Fields Offshore Azerbaijan—September Gas Leak Shut Some Production

Bloomberg News, 04:33 February 24, 2009

Update: Petrobras Official Eyes Pre-April 2009 Start Date for Planned Akpo Oilfield Offshore Nigeria—Sees 185,000 b/d Production by September or October 2009

Reuters, 12:48 February 24, 2009

Update: Mexico Reopens Dos Bocas, Cayo Arcas Oil Ports in Gulf of Mexico February 23-24—Harsh Weather Forced Weekend Closures

Reuters, 11:20 February 24, 2009

Reuters, 17:52 February 23, 2009

Links

This Week in Petroleum from the Energy Information Administration (EIA)

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/twip/twip.asp>

Updated every Wednesday.

Weekly Petroleum Status Report from EIA

http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html

Updated after 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM EST every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM EST every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/ead.aspx>

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